

10/26/62-174.

JFK reply to L. Thant

Chief adds part of the JFK reply to L. Thant "a continuing process" Diplomatically, it is subject to their interpretation. Saying "This is a matter of mutual urgency" because "certain Soviet ships are at it for looking of hubs" & interruption over". I share your hope that Mr. R. H. will also heed your appeal & that he can then proceed urgently to meet the requirements that these offensive missiles be withdrawn in order to meet the threat to peace."

While this is phrased like the "long" language politically popular at home, JFK here agreed to break the problem into 2 parts: first locating the Soviet ships, then this is done - & after the NO is not is just it is done - "we can then proceed." This was a clear telegram, although in diplomatic code, to both L. Thant & R. H. That JFK was not about to make a precipitate attack on hubs, with or without his brother's 2-day trip to Oslo. All the urgency about the missile removal was now window dressing for at least a few days.